

Screenplay

SCENE 1 INT - ASTRID'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

We are in the bedroom of Astrid. She is toiling on her phone. She sees something very disturbing. Personal and upsetting. Before she can stop herself she chucks the phone at the wall.

A short montage occurs during which Astrid melts down, sobs helplessly without recourse, masturbates, looks at herself naked (naked perhaps) in the mirror, smokes weed, masturbates again, eats cheez-it's while passing out.

SCENE 2 INT - ASTRID'S BEDROOM - THE NEXT MORNING

Astrid wakes up to an alarm. Rolls over and begins crying again. Spends a few moments in a yoga "child's pose" and then gets up. We follow her into the bathroom where she brushes her teeth. We focus on the peculiarity of her ritual, the way she does almost everything like it's a dance; flipping toothbrush and paste in her hand like props. We follow her into the shower, during which she sings *Angel Olsen's Acrobat*.

CUTAWAY:

SCENE 3 EXT - STREET

Astrid is walking, *Angel Olsen's Acrobat* plays in her headphones. She is tearing up, so she changes the song to SOME RIDICULOUS RAP SONG.

CUTAWAY

SCENE 4 INT - TRAIN

We're still focused closely on Astrid, and it's still the same song, she's jamming in her small way. She spots some attractive guy, and he looks back at her. They awkwardly connects for brief a moment, before he looks away.

SCENE 5 INT - THEATER REHEARSAL

In a black box theater, Astrid is rehearsing a one-woman show. Also in the room are the director, Mikaela Mahoney, and the playwright and Astrid's best friend, Ramona. Astrid is performing.

*\*\*The following is an excerpt from Abby Rosebrock's short play: High on Arrival.*

(CONTINUED)

## ASTRID

Hi...

Um. Hi there...

Gets shy.

Hm? Oh! Yeah I was asking--do you happen to have a phone charger? By chance?

Oh that's cool, thanks anyways--yeah I never bring mine either, haha...

...I'm Meredith by the way, I'm here for a filling.

...William--ah! Cool well I guess that makes us cavity twins.

...Hey did I hear a little bit of a drawl, comin outta you just now, Sir?

Haha, no I loved it, where you from??

...Oh my god.

Oh my god that's so amazing you're from Georgia.

No I'm from here in Ohio but Georgia's just really important to me, I can't even.... Like the

'96 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta are my number-one favorite Olympics.

...Um. Maybe cause it was the golden age, of US women's gymnastics?? Duh...

You don't remember The Magnificent Seven?

Dominique Dawes, Shannon Miller--Kerri Strug!!! Kerri Strug oh god, oh my god I love

that you know who that is and you just brought her up just now William, cause... well

surprise, I was a gymnast--

Whips out a cool stretch, he compliments her--

Thank you! But yeah everything I am today, I owe to watching the video footage of Kerri

Strug's 1996 Olympic vault injury. Over and over again.

(CONTINUED)

Mm-hm, on VHS, with my gymnastics coach. You know what I'm--?

Oh, so excruciating, you can see the pain just all over her face, that's why coach made us

watch it so much, he made a loop of it--

Well cause he was obsessed with safety, which I loved, I loved that about him--oh, no I'm

retired.

Or I teach P.E. at the high school, but gymnastics-wise I'm like, Methuselah.

Although, still flexible [winks].

I was pretty good though, I actually finished 4th in floor exercise, back in '98, at the

national championships--I did this beautiful routine you can look up through the ESPN

archives online, it was to this song, um, "To Make You Feel My Love?"

...WHAT.

There's an Adele version??????

...I can't even process that right now--

Oh.

Profound and utter disappointment.

...Hunh.

No! No, that's great you guys have a song, I'm really happy, for you and your boyfriend.

...Yeah I did actually, I thought you were straight.

They share a warm laugh.

I dunno, I teach high school, P.E., so. I try to be blind to like, stereotypes and stuff, for the

kids, but.

Like I'm realizing now that your arms are waxed--

He offers his arm. She pets it.

Oo, so soft.

She sits back. Picks at her cuticles.

Sees the man take out a book.

That was smart of you, to bring a book...

...Hey, um. I know you're tryna read now, but.

2.

I just wanna apologize, cause I can tell you're a really cool person and I've just been so

kooky this morning--no really, I'm just comin off a pretty... harrowing night, of casual sex,

on an air mattress, to be honest... surrounded by wolves, if you can imagine--

Yeah for whatever reason this guy Mario has these posters of wolves all over the walls.

Which, I'd switch positions, their eyes would like follow me, wherever I went...

And I tried to get into it, but.

Whatever, it's Tinder he's not real!! It's not real, none of it's real... everything is a dream...

And now I'm gonna zip it, til I get my teeth cleaned. How's that sound.

...Oh, yeah I'll be totally fine, if you use the restroom--seriously, go, banished!! Haha.

Thanks for being concerned though.

ASTRID

And now I go for the book right?

MIKAELA

YES!! Where is the book? We need to find the book! Ahhh! That was amazing. The kick!

ASTRID

Yeah, it's pretty silly.

(CONTINUED)

MIKAELA

Pretty, amaazing! Silly, yes.  
Brilliant? Also yes. Uhhh, I'm  
happy. You are making me a very  
happy woman. And you!

ASTRID

Yeah, she's the genius. I'm just  
making mouth sounds and kicking my  
stupid legs in the air. Hammin' it  
up, like I do.

RAMONA

No, boo. It's all you!

ASTRID

No. But thank you, for saying so.  
It's really, really tremendous. So  
funny, and so sad.

MIKAELA

Yeah...! It *is* sad.

RAMONA

Thank you!

ASTRID

Yeah. She's so alone. What's that  
like?

SCENE 6 INT - THEATER LOBBY

Astrid, Mikaela and Ramona are putting their coats on,  
and/or whatever else in preparation of exiting.

MIKAELA

Lovely, beautiful, talented ladies.  
working with you is a true dream,  
and this is going to be amazing.

ASTRID

How much longer do we have...? The  
10th, we preview

MIKAELA

10th, yes so we have some time. Go  
into tech on Tuesday.

ASTRID

Oh dear.

(CONTINUED)

MIKAELA

Don't you worry. I'm not worried.

ASTRID

Yeah whatever. It'll be fine.

RAMONA

It'll be great boo. You're perfect.

ASTRID

Oh lord. That's very kind of you.  
Yeah, no. I feel good. I'm excited!

MIKAELA

Yayyy! Okay, I must run. See you  
tomorrow. Are you coming?

RAMONA

I think so. I'll try to.

MIKAELA

Wonderbar. Okay. Bye bye bye bye!

They all hug.

ASTRID

Byyyye.

RAMONA

Bye! Love you!

Mikaela exits.

RAMONA

You're really doing so great boo.  
It's gonne be a fuckin' killer.

ASTRID

I know. Thank you. Thank you for  
writing it.

Astrid melts down and lies on the floor.

RAMONA

What's wrong?!

ASTRID

Ughhhhhh. Nooooooooo.

RAMONA

What's wrong boo!?

ASTRID

Ramona, I can't. I can't I can't I  
can't I cant' I can't I cant'.

Ramona lays down on the floor with her and attempts to hold  
her.

RAMONA

What happennnnnned????

ASTRID

He loves her, Ramona. He loves her.

RAMONA

Who?

ASTRID

Seriously?

RAMONA

Louis?

ASTRID

DON'T! SAY HIS NAME!

RAMONA

Sorry.

ASTRID

I hate it!

RAMONA

I know boo. But you're gonna be so  
good in this, and everyone will  
love you.

ASTRID

NO!

RAMONA

Yes! Yes they will.

ASTRID

No, but he won't, Money. He won't  
love me. He loves her! I saw them  
together. Cursed cursed Instagram.  
They look amazing. They looks so  
good. He loves her so much, she's  
the perfect woman.

RAMONA

No! He's just somebody that you  
used to know.

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID  
Ramona, you're for real gonna quote  
Gotye right now.

                  RAMONA  
I think it's pronounced Gootai  
actually.

                  ASTRID  
Gootai?

                  RAMONA  
Yeah.

                  ASTRID  
For real?

                  RAMONA  
Mm-hm.

                  ASTRID  
Gootai?

                  RAMONA  
Gootai, yeah.

                  ASTRID  
That's fuckin stupid.

                  RAMONA  
Yeah. ... Okay, I gotta go boo.

                  ASTRID  
WHAT?!

Ramona gets up, and re-situates herself for exit.

                  RAMONA  
Yeah! I gotta go, I have a meeting  
at ICM later and I'm gonna write a  
little bit at Pizza Hut before I  
go.

                  ASTRID  
Ugh! Haven't they signed you yet?

                  RAMONA  
No. I'm supposed to write another  
pilot for them, going to get notes.  
Yada yada yada. Back to square one.

ASTRID

Work work work work work.

RAMONA

A-seminola work work work work work.

ASTRID

A-symbiotics work work work work work.

RAMONA

Is it seminola, or symbiotics?

ASTRID

I don't know, it's definitely one or the other.

ASTRID

Yeah. Have fun at Pizza Hut. Say hi to the pepperonis for me.

RAMONA

You know I will. ...

ASTRID

Yeah, I know

RAMONA

I don't want you to be sad.

ASTRID

I'm not sad.

RAMONA

Promise?

ASTRID

Promise.

RAMONA

You're on the floor.

ASTRID

I like it.

RAMONA

It did feel good down there. Don't worry about him, Astrid. You're way WAY WAY to good for him. And he'll realize that, and you'll be so far past it.

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID

Yeah. All I need is time. I mean, 8 years just isn't enough. I need more time.

RAMONA

I love you.

ASTRID

Love you too.

RAMONA

You're a shining star.

ASTRID

That's what my stinkin mom says. All the time.

RAMONA

And your mom is a genius too.

ASTRID

Love you.

RAMONA

Love you!!! Great work today.

ASTRID

You too. You're so smart, I Love you.

RAMONA

You're a genius. Love you. Bye!

Ramona exits. Astrid turns to her side. And gets her phone out of her bag.

ASTRID

I'm not sad. I'm fucking apoplectic. I'm fucking ... over. Done.

Astrid sends a text to KABEN. "Hey what are you doing" she then edits it to "Hey, whatcha doing" then "Hey, whatcha doin?" Then "sug dog?" adding the suggested emogi of a dog's head. Then "Hey, how are you? What are you up to?"

ASTRID

I am not a person. I am not a person. I am not a person. I am not a person.

(CONTINUED)

Repeating this mantra, she gets up and goes to the bathroom. And fixes herself in the mirror. She gets a text back. "I'm okay, watching Boyhood. Have you seen it?" She writes: "Si. Esta muy bien." He writes, "wanna come over later" She writes: "Now or never" He sends a blushing smiley face emoji. She writes: "is that a green light?" HE writes "Yes come over." She writes: "K, there in 30" He send a party emoji. She writes: "You're darn right"

## SCENE 7 INT - ENTRY WAY TO KABEN'S APARTMENT

Kaben opens the door to Astrid.

KABEN

Hello.

ASTRID

Hi there. Hello.

Astrid puts her hand out for a shake, which makes him laugh. He goes to hug her, she makes it more awkward than it should be, in a joking spirit.

KABEN

You wanna watch Boyhood?

ASTRID

Fuck naw.

KABEN

OK. Do you want something to drink?

ASTRID

Yes, please.

KABEN

Wine? Whiskey?

ASTRID

Yes

KABEN

Which one? What do you wanna watch?

ASTRID

Really wanna know?

Kaben nods.

SCENE 8 INT - CONT. KABENS COUCH

Astrid and Kaben are on the couch watching *Locked Up*.

KABEN  
Do you wanna put your feet here?

ASTRID  
Okay.

KABEN  
Can I take your socks off?

ASTRID  
Just one.

KABEN  
Okay.

Kaben takes off one of Astrid's socks. He massages up her leg. Looking at her coyly. Astrid returns his look briefly then back to the TV.

ASTRID  
Oh my God. You're obsessed with my feet. Why doesn't that bother me more.

KABEN  
I'm gonna get more whiskey.

Kaben leaves, Astrid curls up on the couch dramatically, then stands up. When Kaben returns, she goes to him and stands very near him. They neck, then hold each other.

ASTRID  
You're nice.

KABEN  
Really?

ASTRID  
Mm-hm. Yeah, really. I should go.

KABEN  
What?!

ASTRID  
I should go! It's probably nearing your bed time.

(CONTINUED)

KABEN

I can stay up for a little while longer.

ASTRID

You can?

Kaben nods.

ASTRID

Should we kiss?

Kaben nods.

They kiss tenderly and caress one another. He touches her boobs, which makes her exhale intensely. She lightly grips his waist, then brushes her hands up his body to his face and hair. He sticks his tongue in her mouth, which makes her pull her face back.

ASTRID

Can you. Make your tongue softer?

KABEN

Okay I'll try.

They kiss more.

KABEN

Is that better?

ASTRID

A little.

KABEN

Can we go into my bedroom.

ASTRID

I don't know.

KABEN

Come on.

ASTRID

Ueuhhhhh.

KABEN

Come on.

ASTRID

I don't want to?

KABEN

You don't

ASTRID

I do, but I know I'll feel sad afterward.

KABEN

Why?

ASTRID

Because I'm a sad person.

KABEN

No you're not.

ASTRID

Yes I fucking am dude. Yes I am.

KABEN

Why?

ASTRID

Because! Because I haven't made anything of my life. I am a fucking loser.

KABEN

No you're not. You're doing the show.

ASTRID

But Kaben, that's not a real job. That's like a fuckin' hobby.

KABEN

It's not a hobby.

ASTRID

No, it's not, but it's like one, since it doesn't get me paid. I am a degenerate, I don't make my own money, I have to ask my family for help all the time, I have to share my house. I wanna be a grown up. I've outgrown ... all these moments. I don't know. I need to really make something. I know I can. Kaben ... I have this idea. For an app. It's a dating app. But you have to make a video. So you flip through the photos, like in tinder or whatever, but on this

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID (cont'd)  
one, when you tap the picture, you can watch a 40 second video. Or maybe 30. So that way, you know what they sound like, how they move. And if they're voice is, say, too effeminate, as sometimes happens...

KABEN  
My voice isn't effeminate.

ASTRID  
I'm not talking about you. Jesus!

KABEN  
Okay.

ASTRID  
Jesus.

KABEN  
Okay okay okay. But the idea is good.

ASTRID  
Right!?

KABEN  
Yeah, it's a good idea. My buddy Chris works in app development. He was like a key mover in Grinder. You should talk to him about it.

ASTRID  
Kaben, will you help me.

KABEN  
Yeah, sure.

ASTRID  
No, Kaben, seriously. I'm being dead ass serious as fucking balls right now.

KABEN  
Yes, I'll help you.

ASTRID  
Will you like, help me make it happen? Because I don't know anything and I suck at everything, but I'm also good at stuff. I just need someone to fucking help me.

(CONTINUED)

KABEN

I mean I'll do what I can.

ASTRID

No, Kaben. I need you to do more than what you can. Let's do it. Let's do it together.

KABEN

I'll try.

ASTRID

Promise to help me. And I'll have sex with you.

KABEN

That's like, prostitution.

ASTRID

Yeah.

## SCENE 9 INT - KABEN'S BEDROOM

Astrid and Kaben are having sex, missionary position. It's simple and consensual. Astrid comes, and then starts crying.

KABEN

Why are you crying?

ASTRID

Sorry. I was thinking about my grandmother.

KABEN

You were thinking about your *grandmother*?

Astrid nods.

KABEN

Why?

ASTRID

Ehjan Effat Zolfagari. She just popped into my mind. I didn't go to her funeral. I wonder if she's watching me right now. Sorry, you can finish.

KABEN

Are you sure?

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID

Jesus, Kaben ... Wow. You're a fuckin' animal. But yes, that's fine.

KABEN

Are you sure? Okay.

SCENE 10 EXT - DITMAS PARK

Astrid is walking alone, looking at the houses. She takes out her phone and looks at their picture. It crushes her. She sits down on a curb in front of one of the beautiful houses. Maybe she lays back on the grass.

ASTRID

Oh God. I'm drowning. Is it my job to grieve?

Astrid looks at the picture, and in the comment she puts a heart-eyed emoji, with a gun emoji next to it. She hovers her thumb over the post button.

SCENE 11 INT - TRAIN

Astrid sits there, looking pale and forlorn. She looks at the phone again. The comment is still in the box, but it is unposted.

SCENE 12 INT - ASTRID'S BEDROOM

We see Astrid as she speaks, but we don't know who she is talking to.

ASTRID

I know you think you're the fucking, King and Queen of the underground but you're just run of the mill, middle class hipsters. Do your stupid fucking jobs and complain about politics over drinks without ever actually risking anything or ever making a fucking difference in fucking anything. Stay hip, assholes. Indie Rock. Sick venue! You're fucking 30. You look fucking great. Your lives will about to nothing. You look fuckin' amazing.

(CONTINUED)

We see that Astrid is talking to the mirror. Deep breath.  
Astrid gets on the phone.

ASTRID

Christina? Hey! How are you? I know, a phone call it's like the olden times! So, I have a question for you? Would you be willing and/or interested in letting me put you on film for this certain project I'm trying to get done. I'm basically putting together a video pitch for a dating app I'm trying to launch. The idea is that, it's basically exactly like Tinder, but each person has a short video that they upload. And so, when you're browsing people's pictures, if you see someone, like the way they look. You can click on them, and watch this short video they made. And the idea is we provide a short list of questions you can answer on the video, though you also have the option of totally throwing the questions away and making it whatever you want. It could be a video of you ... just dancing for 35 seconds. Or singing. Or dancing and singing. Saying a poem. Saying "Hey, what's up", telling a joke. You get the idea. It's kind of anything you want. If you wanna be creative, you can. Or you can totally just answer the questions, straight-forward easy. So that's my idea and I want make a few samples with my most interesting friends. I don't mean to put you on the spot, like you don't have to answer now but- Really? I'm tentatively thinking this Saturday? That's good?! Oh my God, great, okay. So, how about noon? Fantastic!! You have my address. Alright, perfect. I'll see you then. And I'll send a reminder on Friday and everything. Okay, awesome. Thank you so much. Okay! Bye.

Astrid makes another phone call.

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID

Alex! What are you doing this  
Friday?

SCENE 13 INT - ASTRID AND RAMONA'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Astrid is cleaning the living room, preparing it for the shoot somewhat manically. We hear her thoughts in voice over.

*VO: Sadness doesn't suit aging women. Maybe that's fucked up to say, but it's not my own original idea. It reflects the view of the world. I don't like it. At all. It still rings true.*

*I feel like a fraud when I try to pretend to have grown up with out you. Everybody I meet is some version of you. Incomplete parts.*

You can forget.

*When any glimmer of hope ignites in me, all thoughts rush to you with landslide effect.*

*The nerves containing the experience of you are still raw. Maybe they'll always be. Maybe I work to keep them that way. You told me our wills were weak. Well, speak for your fucking self.*

*If I could translate all the beauty I see in the world into a whisper in your ear believe me I would. If I could dance for you for the rest of time to show you how I feel for you I would do it. How everything is you, you are in all things. With every man I've ever kissed, I've seen your face and cried. They ask me what's wrong. Silence, complicity. I probably failed you. You killed me. Bring me back to life.*

You can forget.

*The space you occupy is infinite. I could say anything to you and it would be true. I could look at you, and I could die.*

\*OR maybe we just hear Googoosh while she cleans.

SCENE 14 INT - ASTRID'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

Astrid and ALEX, CHRISTINA, MARY-LYNN and RAMONA are in the living room, scattered about. Astrid serves them beer, water, wine. A iphone is set up on a tri-pod, facing an area set up for filming. A key light.

(CONTINUED)

ASTRID

Thank you all So, so much for doing this you guys. Please drink, I can order pizza too, or chinese, or something. Okay, so everybody basically knows what they're gonna say. Alex ... Do you wanna go first. Yay. Okay! Awesome. This is gonna be great, and easy, and fun.

Alex gets himself in front of the camera. Astrid, at the iphone.

ASTRID

And. Action.

ALEX

Hello! My name is Alex. I'm 28 years old. I'm from Boston. I think the most important thing in a partner for me is a sense of humor, kindness. I work in the arts, so some level of art appreciation is probably something I'd need. Hm, let's see what else. My ideal date is probably dinner and a movie. I'm not terribly original I know. I like movies. And plays, but movies are easier. Okay, I think I'm out of town. Time! I'm out of time!

Astrid cuts.

ALEX

Oh my God. That was horrible.

ASTRID

No! Alex, it was great. I love how loose it was, really it was perfect. We can do it again, but I think that was great.

Cut to Christina on the film

CHRISTINA

I just wanna feel good. Life is precious and human connection is marvelous. Yeah. That's me, basically. This is currently my jam.

Christina plays Yardbirds' Shape of Things and dances playfully.

(CONTINUED)

Cut to Mary-Lynn on camera.

MARY-LYNN

Hi, I'm Mary-lynn. This is stupid and my friends making me do it, but I guess if I meet someone cool, that would be cool. I'm from here. I have my own company... I don't like most people ...

Cut to Ramona on Camera.

RAMONA

Hi y'all. Ramona here. No heartbreakers please, and also no uggos. Just kidding, um. I'm a playwright, been living here for 7 years. I'm from Greenville, North Carolina. I love dogs. In fact, I kind of am a dog. I can bark like a dog (ruff! ruff!) and I love to be pet and rubbed. But I'm a monogomous dog, so open-relationshipippers swipe left, or whatever way's negative. Okay, look forward to meeting you! Bye!

Astrid cuts.

ASTRID

Okay, you guys! Awesome. Awesome. That was great! Pizza?

Cut to Astrid hugging them goodbye, and seeing them out of the door.

ASTRID

Thanks again, so much.